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Victorian Government Housing Strategy will improve affordability; now the Federal Government needs to step up the plate

Today the Victorian Government released their '[Homes for Victorians](#)' housing strategy to improve affordability of housing.

Council to Homeless Persons (CHP) welcomes the strategy, and particularly commends the use of the innovative policy levers available to State Government, including the new vacancy tax, shared equity, the \$1 billion Social Housing Growth Fund, the \$1 billion Social Housing Loan Guarantee Fund, and the rebalancing of stamp duty concessions from investors to first homebuyers.

Also welcome is the investment in critical services to homeless Victorians, and the commitment both to develop new homeless accommodation and social housing, and upgrade rooming houses.

"As a collective set of strategies this plan will deliver around 6,000 social housing dwellings over five years, which will have a positive impact on homelessness", says CHP CEO Jenny Smith.

"Council to Homeless Persons has consistently called on State Government to invest in housing targeted to low income and homeless households to address homelessness, and that is what this strategy achieves.

"Now the Federal Government needs to step up to the plate to fund the 30,000 social housing properties Infrastructure Victoria identified as urgently needed in the next five years."

"Victoria has an absolute crisis of rental affordability for low income households that has developed over decades, which is driving increased rates of homelessness.

"On Sunday Federal Treasurer Scott Morrison foreshadowed [reform of the Agreement that underpins public housing, the National Affordable Housing Agreement](#), in the May Budget.

"Without these resources the continued operation of Victoria's existing 80,000 social housing dwellings is under threat. We are seeking a guarantee that any reform will both continue the current subsidy to sustain existing public housing, and provide resources to support the social housing growth needed."